

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BROWN CO-SPONSORS OBESITY BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Indiana House members passed a bill co-sponsored by State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary) that would attempt to address the increasing problem of obesity in Indiana.

Senate Bill 360 outlines a number of new requirements aimed specifically at schoolchildren and their health. Food and beverages sold during school hours would have to meet certain nutritional requirements and daily physical activity will be required for all elementary school students in public schools.

The Department of Education would have to provide Indiana's schools with information concerning health, nutrition, and physical activity to school. School boards would be required to establish a coordinated school health advisory council that would develop a local wellness policy.

"Obesity has been linked to a number of medical conditions, such as certain types of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and an overall shorter life expectancy," said Brown. "We owe it to our children to help them become healthier individuals so that they can have long and happy lives."

The bill also contains language aimed at surgical treatment for morbid obesity, requiring coverage under a state employee health plan, accident and sickness insurance policies, and health maintenance organization contracts.

Senate Bill 360 will now be sent to the Governor for consideration.